

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Data from the crypto units is transferred to a transmit buffer element in a media switch fabric interface of the processor and then transmitted over an interface, such as an SPI4.2 or NPSI interface. SPI4.2 (Optical Internetworking Forum (OIF) standard System Packet Interface level 4, Phase 2, published January, 2001) is an industry standard interface commonly used to interconnect MAC (Media Access Controller)/framer devices to network processors. NPSI (Network Processing Forum (NPF) ~~(NPF)~~ standard Network Processing Forum Streaming Interface, September, 2002) is a related interface that is used for transmitting data between network processors. Data is transmitted over the SPI4.2/NPSI interfaces in blocks, referred to as mpackets. Protocol packets, such as IP (Internet Protocol) packets or Ethernet frames, are split into multiple mpackets. The amount of data within an mpacket is a multiple of 16 bytes, unless the mpacket is the last mpacket in a packet.